

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 AID-20

PC-04 RSR-01 /095 W

----- 100194

O 151345 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3746

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4403

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPRS, CASC, SOCI, AF

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND VARIOUS RELIGIOUS
ORGANIZATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 115553

(B) KABUL 4396

(C) KABUL 4295

1. AS DESCRIBED REF (B), RGA BEGAN CAREFUL BUT RAPID ACTION
JUNE 13 TO REMOVE CHURCH ROOF, AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEER DIRECTING
WORK (PARVANTA) TOLD CHURCH BOARD MEMBER THAT HIS ORDERS WERE
LIMITED TO ROOF REMOVAL. HOWEVER, PACE AND NATURE OF ACTION
CHANGED JUNE 15 (SUBSEQUENT TO REF B). BULLDOZER NOW BEING
EMPLOYED TO REMOVE INLAID MARBLE FLOOR, CONCRETE ENTRANCE, ETC.
PARVANTA SAID LATE JUNE 15 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NEW ORDERS
EVENING OF JUNE 14 TO DEMOLISH BUILDING COMPLETELY. INDICATIONS
ARE NOW THAT BUILDING WILL SOON BE RAZED.

2. POLICE ARE PREVENTING VEHICLES OR INDIVIDUALS FROM TOURING ON
TO STREET WHERE CHURCH LOCATED. GUARDS POSTED AT ENTRANCE TO OLD
CHURCH BUILDING. CCC BOARD UNCERTAIN AT MOMENT WHETHER TRY HOLD
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES THERE AS USUAL, DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM
RGA (REF C, PARA 2). (PORTION OF LETTER TO CHURCH BOARD FROM
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KABUL MAYOR RECEIVED JUNE 13 STATES " THE OLD BUILDING THAT
ORIGINALLY WAS MEANT TO BE LIVING QUARTERS WILL REMAIN AS USUAL
FOR THE SAME PURPOSE OF LIVING QUARTERS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.")

3. APPARENT NEW RGA DECISION TO DEMOLISH BUILDING COMPLETELY
MAY BE RESULT SHAFIQ REACTION TO CCC BOARD LETTER TO HIM.
(REF B, PARA 2). (SHAFIQ' S SPECIAL ASSISTANT KAZIMI, WHO GIVEN
LETTER FOR PM BY INTERMEDIARY, HINTED THAT REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION
MIGHT EXASPERBATE SITUATION). ON OTHER HAND, NEW DECISION MAY
RATHER REFLECT PM' S DESIRE TO " ELIMINATE ISSUE QUICKLY" TO HEAD
OFF ANTICIPATED PRESSURES DIPLOMATIC OR OTHERWISE.

4. PROSPECTS FOR SOME EVENTUAL COMPENSATION TOO EARLY ASSESS.
SHAFIQ HAS ORALLY REFERRED TO THIS POSSIBILITY, BUT PROCESS SURE
TO BE TORTUOUS AT BEST. ILLEGALITY OF CCC' S TITLE TO PROPERTY
WOULD MAKE LEGAL GROUNDS FOR COMPENSATION VERY DIFFICULT
ESTABLISH. BEST HOPE IS FOR " POLITICAL- TYPE GESTURE" AFTER
TEMPERATURES COOL.

5. MAP FUTURE STILL AMBIGUOUS AND ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM
REF C. HOWEVER, SEVERAL RGA OFFICIALS IN RECENT DISCUSSION OF
CASE WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN VERY PESSIMISTIC, REFERRING
OMINOUSLY TO ALLEGED IMPORT BY MAP OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF BIBLES
IN BOXES MARKED " FAMILY PLANNING SUPPLIES". NO INDIVIDUALS YET
ASKED LEAVE EXCEPT BLOOMHAGENS AND HARPERS.

6. ACTING DEPFONMIN KARIM REACTED FAVORABLY TO KNIGHTON TELEGRAM,
BUT HAS LAMENTED FACT THAT KNIGHTON HAD NOT ORDERED BLOOMHAGANS
OUT IN APRIL WHEN HE WAS HERE, RATHER THAN PUTTING ONUS ON RGA.
KNIGHTON VISIT NOW MIGHT RPT MIGHT HELP, BUT WE DOUBT SERIOUSLY
THAT ADVERSE MOMENTUM CAN NOW BE REVERSED. EMBASSY WILL DO
EVERYTHING IT CAN APPROPRIATELY DO HERE. HOWEVER, SHORT OF
OFFICIAL INSTRUCTION TO LODGE FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS, WE SEE
LITTLE MORE DEPT. CAN DO TO HELP. AND VERY LIKELY THAT SUCH
FORMAL PROTEST WOULD ONLY BACKFIRE HERE.

7. RGA (OR RATHER SHAFIQ) MAY BE GENUINELY WORRIED ABOUT MULLAH
REACTION AND OPPOSITION. WE HAVE SOME CORROBORATING REPORTS.
WHETHER PM' S FEARS ARE REAL OR FEIGNED, IT CLEAR HE IS DETERMINED
ELIMINATE ANY AND ALL APPEARANCE OF FOREIGN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY
AMONG AFGHANS, REGARDLESS OF COST ABROAD. WITH RGA DOSSIERS
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UNDOUBTEDLY FULL OF FALSE (AND POSSIBLY A FEW TRUE) CHARGES
AGAINST MAP AND NOOR PERSONNEL, CHANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS LONG
SURVIVING SEEM NOW EXTREMELY POOR.
LEWIS

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